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West 23d St.

HONOR AMONG THIEVES

STRANGE EXPERIENCE OF CHUCCA, THE
COMPOSER, WITH PICKPOCKETS.

ROMANTIC LOVE STORY OF THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH OF BAVARIA—MARSHAL SAINT-ARNAUD'S GRANDDAUGHTER ARRESTED

—IS JOHANN ORTH ALIVE?

All Madrid has been amused at the remarkable experience which befell Señor Chucca, the popular composer, a few days ago in the Spanish capital. In his latest piece, "La Gran Vía," which has been the chief attraction at the opera house for some time, the maestro has endeavored to immortalize three pickpockets, known as "Les tres Ratas." The characters, in fact, are the chief ones of the piece. While riding recently in one of the tram-cars of Madrid one of the "long-fingered gentry" relieved Chucca of his pocketbook, containing his photograph and 200 pesetas. The composer reported the robbery to the police, with little hope, however, of regaining his property. The incident naturally was told in the newspapers. Twenty-four hours later the Señor received a package containing the money and the following letter:

"Most Honored Master: By mistake one of our colleagues yesterday stole your pocketbook and its contents. Through the papers he learned of his error. The president of the society, to whom he entrusted the duty of repaying the evil done, honors himself in returning this to you, with the 200 pesetas. In order to avoid such a mistake in the future we have retained your photograph, to which we shall give a prominent place in our council chamber. Never again will the honorable Association of Madrid Pickpockets forget that it was you, who honored Master, through your opera, who gave us a respectable and deserving place in society. With the highest respect, LES TRES RATAS."

The famous composer, however, is not the only one in Spain who is to be exempt from the depredations of this class of citizens. A few days after Chucca had recovered his property the wife of Señor Morano, a prominent editor of Barcelona, lost her gold watch, studded with diamonds. The Señor in his paper offered a reward for the return of the timepiece, promising to ask no questions. The paper had been on the street only a few hours when a handsomely dressed man called at the office and asked to see the editor. He was the wife of Morano and disappeared. The package contained the watch. The next mail brought a letter saying that the watch had been stolen by a Barcelona "Rata," but that as soon as the council had learned that the jewel belonged to an editor's wife it had decided to return it. "We are not less honorable," the letter went on, "than our Madrid colleagues. Artists, authors and journalists in future are to be safe against our attacks."

STORY OF A ROMANTIC PRINCESS.

The romantic attachment of Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria, the eldest daughter of Prince Leopold, for a young lieutenant in the Bavarian Army has been a favorite subject of gossip among the high worlds of Munich and Vienna recently. The young man is Baron Seefried, the son of an old family, who met the Princess, it is said, when his regiment was sent to Munich a few years ago. When the affair became known everything possible was done to break it off by both the Bavarian and Austrian royal families. Princesses of the blood were suggested for her hand and invited to visit the Bavarian court in the hope of winning her heart and causing her to forget the lowly soldier. Extraordinary efforts were made because of the announcement of the engagement of the Princess Augusta, the younger sister of Princess Elizabeth, and the Archduke Joseph Augustin, of Austria, it being contrary to royal custom that a younger daughter marry first.

Princess Elizabeth, however, declared that she would wed the Baron or remain single, and told her parents to proceed with the arrangements for the marriage of her sister. This was done, and the Baron took place a few days ago. Several weeks before the wedding, however, Baron Seefried was transferred to the garrison of Metz, a long distance from the Princess. The absence of her sweetheart has only made her love grow warmer, and it is rumored that she has been successful in inducing her grandfather, Emperor Francis Joseph, to favor her marriage to the Baron. His Majesty has decided to raise the Baron to the rank of count and give him a castle in Austria, where he is to live with his bride in the future. He will enter the Austrian Army, and in all probability become a prince of the empire. The Princess, it is said, is a chivalrous and clever young fellow.

There have been several instances in Germany where princesses of the royal houses sacrificed their rank and position to marry men beneath their rank. One of the most conspicuous instances is that of the Princess of Schleswig-Holstein, aunt of the German Emperor, who declined the offers of numerous men of equal station to wed the late Emperor of Kiel. Dr. Frederick Emswiler, who has since then been ennobled by the Emperor of Germany.

A GIANT SWINDLING SCHEME STOPPED.

The police of Rome have arrested the ringleaders in one of the most gigantic swindling schemes of the century. A band of thieves, under the leadership of the French Countess Saint-Arnaud, a granddaughter of the famous Marshal of France in the days of Napoleon, a reputed Duke Pascoletti, a Bostello, and an author, Martineau, have successfully played for months upon the interest of Catholics throughout the world in the "prisoner of the Vatican." It is difficult to understand how they found so many dupes. They spread abroad the report, however—secretly—that the Pope was not so much the prisoner of Italy as of the Free Masons among the clergy; that His Holiness was confined in the cellars under the Vatican, and that a false Pope—a demon—in the form of Leo, sat on the throne of St. Peter. The band asked for money to liberate the Pope and carry him to France.

A number of French priests, among others, were caught by the thieves and sent considerable sums of money to them. Monsignors Chai and Glemard, according to Italian papers, collected alone more than \$4,000 for the purpose. Large sums in answer to the circulars arrived also from other countries.

Officers of the Vatican finally got a hint of the scheme and reported it to the police, with the result mentioned above. It was found that the Countess Saint-Arnaud had built a beautiful chapel in her palace, to which the dupes were introduced to listen to the corroboratory tales of a "speaking Madonna" regarding the imprisonment and sufferings of the Pope. Behind the Madonna, it is needless to add, was concealed one of the conspirators.

The Duke Pascoletti represented himself as the Ambassador from Honduras, and among other things mentioned above, it was found that the Countess Saint-Arnaud had built a beautiful chapel in her palace, to which the dupes were introduced to listen to the corroboratory tales of a "speaking Madonna" regarding the imprisonment and sufferings of the Pope. Behind the Madonna, it is needless to add, was concealed one of the conspirators.

Strange to say, some of the dupes declined to believe the stories of the police, and appealed to King

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